

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 10 and 12 and rewrite claims 8 and 11 as follows:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
  
8. (Currently Amended) A container for a framed pellicle comprising a container base including a first surface area and a covering made of plastic resin and including a surface mounted on said container base to form an inside space between said first surface area of said base and said surface of said covering to contain, ~~and~~ a framed pellicle therein, ~~disposed within said inside space and~~ wherein said first surface area of said base and said surface of said covering are each include a layer formed of an inorganic material selected from the group consisting of metals, alloys, glass and ceramics with said inorganic material completely surrounding the pellicle and in which the layer formed on each of said container base and said covering have a thickness of at least 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$ .
  
9. (Previously Presented) A container for a framed pellicle according to claim 8 in which said container base and said covering consist of an inorganic material selected from the group consisting of metals, alloys, glass and ceramics.
  
10. (Cancelled)
  
11. (Currently Amended) A container for a framed pellicle according to claim ~~40~~ 8 in which said container base and said covering each include a second surface and in which each of said second surfaces include a layer formed of an inorganic material selected from the group consisting of metals, alloys, glass and ceramics.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) A container for a framed pellicle according to claim 8 in which the metal or alloy is selected from the group consisting of aluminum, copper, iron and stainless steel.

14. (Previously Presented) A container for a framed pellicle according to claim 8 wherein said first surface area and said inner surface of said covering including a layer formed from an inorganic material selected from the group consisting of silicon nitride, silicon carbide, zirconia, alumina and boron nitride.